https://web.archive.org/web/20100328164936/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7a.htm

**Background**

For centuries, the area of southwestern Ukraine known as Transcarpathia, Ruthenia, or Carpathian Ukraine was part of the Habsburg Empire rather than czarist Russia. Thus, prior to 1939, the stamps of Austria, Hungary, and then Czechoslovakia had been used in Transcarpathia. Russian or Ukrainian stamps were never employed.

While this article will focus on the issues from 1939 and 1945, when the area was referred to as Carpatho-Ukraine, a brief outline of the area's entire postal history is in order. The following is a simplified division into 10 periods:

1. Pre-stamp period (to 1850)
2. Austrian Issues (1850-1871)
3. Hungarian Issues (1871-1918)
4. Czechoslovak Issues (1919-1939)
5. National Assembly (Independence) Issue (15 March 1939)
6. Hungarian Issues (1939-1944)
7. Czechoslovak Local Issues (1944) – Khust, Berehove, Mukachiv
8. NRZU Issues (1945) – Uzhhorod, Berehove*, Mukachiv*
9. Soviet Issues (1945-1991)
10. Ukrainian Issues (1992-present)

* - Postal stationery only; see Chapter 14.

From 1919 to 1939, Transcarpathia was the easternmost province of Czechoslovakia (Figure 1). It was also the smallest province (4,886 square miles) and had a population of 725,357 according to the 1930 census, 71 percent of which was Ukrainian. It was during this period that Ukrainian public schools were permitted for the first time. This and other factors contributed to the rise in

Ukrainian nationalism, which culminated in the 15 March 1939 declaration of independence.

The convoluted pathway by which this slice of Ukrainian ethnic territory ended up part of Czechoslovakia will not be covered here in detail. Suffice it to say that in late 1918, with the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Transcarpathian Ukrainians did make overtures to unite with the independent Ukrainian state. However, the ongoing fighting and chaotic conditions on much of Ukrainian lands in 1919 made it obvious that such a union could not occur. Not willing to join either Hungary (from whose oppression they had just emerged) or Poland (then fighting the forces of Western Ukraine), the only realistic remaining option was incorporation into the newly formed Czechoslovakia.

After much discussion and bargaining, the local Ukrainian political leaders accepted the Czechoslovak option with the stipulation that Transcarpathia would be allowed the fullest degree of autonomy within the Czechoslovak State. It is with these assurances that the Czechoslovak Republic signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain on 10 September 1919, under which Transcarpathia (now officially called Subcarpathian Ruthenia or just Ruthenia) became the easternmost province of Czechoslovakia.

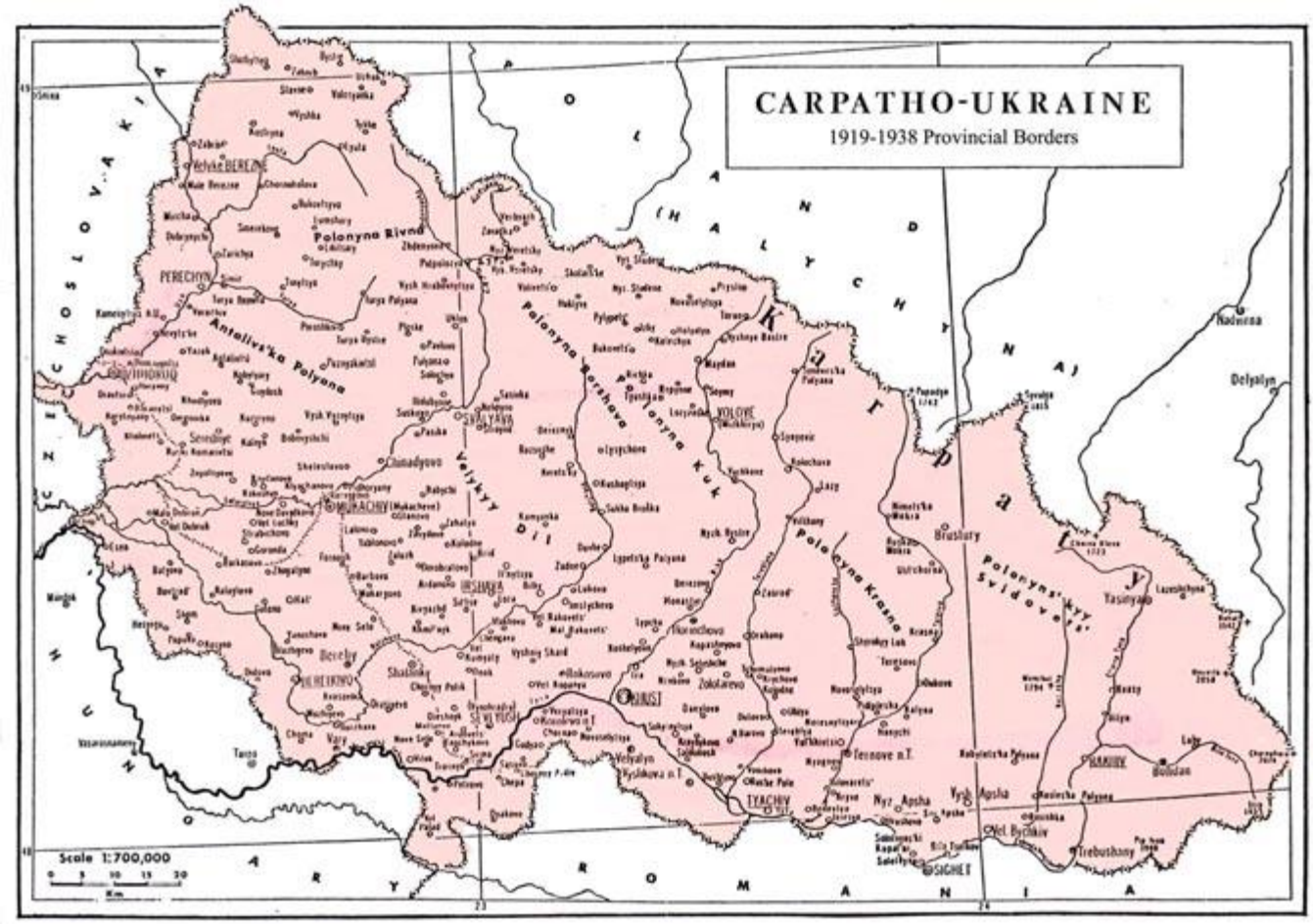


*Figure 1. Carpatho-Ukraine and its neighbors*

Unfortunately, for the next 19 years, the Czechoslovak administration failed to implement the provisions of this treaty, seeking instead to inculcate the Czech language into all facets of daily life. While "local language" Ruthenian schools were allowed, a disproportionate number of Czech language schools were opened, causing the Ruthenians to feel threatened by the Czech penetration. Despite the improvements in everyday life that were introduced during this time period, the prolonged delay in promised autonomy and the unresolved language question fostered ever-deepening resentment among the Ruthenians toward their Czech-led government.

In September of 1938, at the Four Powers Conference in Munich, Czechoslovakia was forced to cede its German-populated Sudetenland to Germany. At this point the Czech government finally acquiesced and declared itself willing to meet the demands of both Slovakia and Ruthenia for more autonomy. The following month, Ruthenians were granted their own government under the Rev. Avhustyn

Voloshyn. It is at this time also that the name of Carpatho-Ukraine was officially adopted. In November, parts of southern and western Carpatho-Ukraine were transferred to Hungary in the Vienna Award. The capital of Uzhhorod and the towns of Mukachiv (Mukachevo) and Berehove (Berehovo) were lost, forcing the Voloshyn government to transfer the seat of government to Khust.

Figure 2 shows the boundaries of Carpatho-Ukraine during World War II. The southwestern area in white was annexed by Hungary on 2 November 1938, while the shaded area was annexed on 16 March 1939. Furthermore, on 4 April 1939, Hungary also annexed a portion of eastern Slovakia (the area in white north of Uzhhorod). During World War II, this latter area was administered as part of Carpatho-Ukraine (Kárpátalja).

*Figure 2. Carpathian-area border changes, 1938-1945.*

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061949/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7b.htm

The National Assembly Issue

Early in 1939, plans were drawn up to hold the First Carpatho-Ukrainian National Assembly (Soim) in Khust. The date of 2 March was agreed upon and a special regional stamp, with appropriate commemorative stationery and cancellations, was designed to mark the occasion (Figure 3). The 3-koruny blue stamp, depicting the wooden church at Yasinia, was delivered to Khust by the beginning of February.

Figure 3. The famous 3-koruny blue, Carpatho-Ukraine's first stamp, showing the Church of the Ascension (Struk Church) and bell tower in the town of Yasinia.

In actuality, the new stamp was a re-engraving of a 60-haléřů, orange red stamp from the 1928 Tenth Anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence Issue. The printing sheet format consisted of two panes of 100 side-by-side. Each pane had 16 horizontal rows, with the first and last rows consisting of only one stamp at the far left along with six blank tabs. The other 14 rows had seven stamps each. The last tab at the bottom right bore the plate number, either "1" or "1A" (Figure 4). A total of 900,000 stamps were prepared, with 300,000 forwarded to Khust and the remainder kept in Prague.

Because of its high value, the 3-koruny stamp was really only suitable for registered mailings or special delivery letters (see postal rates sidebar).

Figure 4. Printing sheet layout for the 1939 stamp.

Fearing a possible loss of its easternmost province during this charged time, the Czech government repeatedly postponed the convening of the Assembly. Nevertheless, fast moving events during the middle of the month proved to be decisive. On 14 March, Slovakia declared its independence. Geographically now separated from Prague, Carpatho-Ukraine became de facto independent. That same day, the Hungarian army crossed the Carpatho-Ukrainian frontier, seeking to annex the province.

In the early evening of the 14th, Voloshyn announced on the Khust radio that Carpatho-Ukraine had declared its independence. The following morning he handed over a handwritten decree to the Khust post office authorizing the sale of

the stored stamps as the new country's first postal issue. A telegram was sent to Prague around 10:30 am informing postal officials of the stamp release, and the 600,000 stamps at the Philatelic Section in the Czech capital went on sale later that day. Around mid-afternoon of the 15th, the 22 elected deputies met in Khust and unanimously passed a bill officially declaring Carpatho-Ukraine a sovereign republic. Voloshyn was then unanimously elected its first president.

Although the semi-military formation known as the Karpatska Sich (Carpathian Sich) put up a spirited defense to the Hungarian advance, it was inadequately armed and trained. By 4:30 pm on 16 March the Khust post office was taken and by 6 pm the entire town was occupied and the Carpatho-Ukrainian Government had fled. The National Assembly Issue was valid, therefore, for only two days. Over the next several days, the remainder of Carpatho-Ukraine fell to Hungarian forces; it became the Hungarian province of Kárpátalja until late 1944.

The short duration of Carpatho-Ukraine's existence in 1939 - and its lone stamp release - gave rise to the myth that Carpatho-Ukraine was the one country that could be collected complete simply by obtaining the 3-koruny stamp. Such is far from the case, however, as many more Carpatho-Ukrainian stamp issues were produced after the five and a half years of Hungarian occupation ended in the fall of 1944.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061533/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7c.htm

**The Yasinia Local Trident Overprints**

Hearkening back to 1918-19 when trident overprints were the norm on stamps of newly independent Ukraine, some citizens of the town of Yasinia decided to create their own version during the time of Carpatho-Ukraine's short-lived independence. On 14 March 1939, 43 Czechoslovak stamp issues and two souvenir sheets were overprinted with a rubber handstamp showing a trident (Figure 5; designated Type I, it is rather similar to Odesa VIa or some of the Podillia trident overprints from Ukraine 20 years earlier). Still on that same day or on the following day, 39 Czechoslovak stamp varieties were overprinted with a distinctive Type II metal device that not only displayed a trident, but also the words "СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!" (Glory to Ukraine!) in a half circle under the trident (Figure 6). Some postal cards were also overprinted with either the Type I or Type II tridents. All of the overprinting was carried out with black ink.

*Figure 5. Type I*

*Figure 6. Type II.*

Exactly who produced the Yasinia overprints has not been determined. A likely source is members of the military organization Karpatska Sich, some of whose recruits were stationed in Yasinia at this time. The Yasinia stamps were not officially authorized issues by any means, despite the fact that some of the overprinted stamps are known seemingly used with a Yasinia circular date stamp of 14 March 1939. These "used" stamps were most likely created on a "canceled-to-order" or "handback" basis. The Yasinia local stamps were not prepared in any great quantities and are fairly difficult to track down. They thus provide quite a challenge for collectors of philatelic ephemera.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061539/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7d.htm

**Carpatho-Ukrainian Postal Rates**

The Czechoslovak postal rates in force in mid-March of 1939, at the time Carpatho-Ukraine declared its independence, were as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Local letter (to 20g) | 60 haléřů |
| Domestic postal card | 50 haléřů |
| Domestic letter rate (to 20g) | 1 koruna |
| Domestic Registration | 2 koruny |
| Domestic Special delivery | 2 koruny |
| Foreign postal card to neighboring countries | 1.20 koruny |
| Foreign postal card to other countries | 1.50 koruny |
| Foreign letter to neighboring countries (to 20g) | 2 koruny |
| Foreign letter to other countries (to 20g) | 2.50 koruny |
| Foreign registration to neighboring countries | 2 koruny |
| Foreign registration to other countries | 2.50 koruny |
| Foreign special delivery (express) | 5 koruny |

Unfortunately, the postal rates in Carpatho-Ukraine following liberation from Hungary are far less clear. The Hungarian expert Béla Simády (1984) provided the following list of rates:

| | |
|---|---|
| Local letter | 40 fillér (0.40 Pengő) |

| | |
|---|---|
| Domestic postal card | 40 fillér (0.40 Pengő) |
| Domestic letter | 60 fillér (0.60 pengő) |
| Foreign postal card | 1 Pengő |
| Foreign letter | 2 Pengő |
| Registration | 1.40 Pengő |

Although, this information is useful, the franking on a great many covers still goes unexplained. In particular, there are many court letters and official correspondences of the NRZU that are franked with 10 fillér and 20 fillér, which causes one to assume the existence of special rates (printed matter?) for those classes of mail.

Furthermore, five years later, Simády (1989) stated the following in regards the 1945 tariffs: "I have no exact data about the then-valid rates, but the franking of letters shows a very colorful picture."! Obviously, this subject presents opportunities for additional research

If one discards the blatantly philatelic covers, the above rates "fit" about 50% of the covers known. The foreign rates seem to be consistently applied, but there are many exceptions to the domestic (including local) rates.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061547/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7e.htm

**A Change in Regimes**

Carpatho-Ukraine was occupied by the Red Army in October of 1944. The Czechoslovak government-in-exile exercised civil authority for a brief period, but by early 1945, it had moved on to Košice in Slovakia (which had also been freed from Hungarian rule). This body produced some local issues (40 items) in Khust and authorizing documentation is known. Czechoslovak "Sympathy Issues" were also prepared in Mukachiv (81 items), Berehove (31 items), and Teresva (113 items), but precisely who was responsible for their issuance is unclear (Figure 7).

*Figure 7. Local issues of late 1944*

Very few covers demonstrating usage of these local stamps have survived from Khust and Mukachiv. Some from Khust are possibly genuine, but virtually all from Mukachiv were philatelically prepared. The authors are unaware of any covers from Berehove or Teresva. Because of their dubious nature, these local issues are not dealt with in this *Handbook*.

Meanwhile, a network of local political organizations had evolved to become the "National Council of Carpatho-Ukraine," known as the NRZU (after the Ukrainian initials for "Narodna Rada Zakarpatskoi Ukrainy"). Eventually, the Soviet military authorities entrusted the civil administration of Carpatho-Ukraine to the NRZU. This autonomy extended to postal matters. Under NRZU auspices, two overprinted issues and three definitive issues were produced and distributed throughout Carpatho-Ukrainian territories.

All Carpatho-Ukraine stamps from this time period lack an indication of the currency. At one time, it was thought that the Soviet, Hungarian, and Czech currencies were allowed to circulate at equal value. Current thinking is that only the Hungarian fillér / pengő currency was in circulation. It is also plausible that the currency designation was omitted since it represented a symbol of the Hungarian occupation. This article will indicate denominations as either “f” (fillér) or “P” (Pengő).

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061954/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7f.htm

**The Uzhhorod Provisional Overprints**

Considerable discrepancies occur among catalogs as to how many basic Hungarian stamp releases were overprinted by the NZRU. Some compilations list all of the dozens of revenue stamps that were prepared. Others ignore most of these stating that they were essays and therefore never put into postal circulation. No two listings are the same and this has caused a great deal of confusion among philatelists.

Nevertheless, there are basic characteristics of these overprints that everyone does agree upon. The Uzhhorod overprints all consist of three lines of Ukrainian text: "Poshta Zakarpatska Ukraina" (Post of Transcarpathian Ukraine) plus a denomination. (Although not indicated, the value is in Pengő and/or fillér.) Three distinct overprints (A, B, and C - see Figure 8) were employed. Overprinting of Hungarian stamps took place at two different times in two different printeries. That is about all that can be stated with certainty, as the various experts are in disagreement about the specifics.

Overprint A | Overprint B | Overprint C

*Figure 8. The three Uzhhorod overprint styles*

**https://web.archive.org/web/20090911082359/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7g.htm**

Watermarks

The basic Hungarian stamps used for overprinting exist with either or both of the following watermarks:

Watermark IX

Watermark X

Figure 13. Watermarks on Hungarian stamps.

Watermark IX (Scott 210) is a pattern of detached double crosses. It can exist in up to four positions (based on the alignment of the pyramidal cross bases). On single stamps it is often not possible to identify the watermark position.

Watermark X (Scott 266) is a crowned coat of arms with double cross. It can exist in up to four positions (based on the direction that the cross on the crown leans). On single stamps, only two positions are identifiable.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061549/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7h.htm

**First Edition**

The overprinting of the First Edition, consisting of overprints A and B, began on 1 February 1945 (10 February according to some accounts) in the state printing shop, Litografia Lam. This was a rather limited edition as stocks for the overprinting were drawn only from post offices in the vicinity of Uzhhorod. Seventeen different Hungarian postage stamps, six postage due stamps, and three revenue stamps were overprinted into First Edition Uzhhorod Provisionals (Figure 10). Additionally, numerous other revenue stamps were prepared but not released.

*Figure 9. First Edition stamps.*

The First Edition stamps were overprinted in vertical strips of ten. Frequently, smaller units were pasted together to form strips for overprinting. Four major types (I through IV) and several subtypes of the A-overprint are known (Figure 11), primarily due to a shortage of capital letters (increasing the number of collectible varieties to well over 150). The following types and sub-types are recognized by most collectors:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Type I | - | Normal; initial capital letters without serifs (positions 3, 5 early, 7, and 8) |
| Type IA | - | Broken **н** in Україна (position 5 late) |
| Type II | - | **З** in **З**акарпатська with serifs (position 2). |
| Type III | - | **П** in **П**ошта with serifs (positions 4 and 6). |
| Type IIIA | - | Missing final **а** in Закарпатськ**а** (position 1). |
| Type IV | - | Serifs on both the **П** in **Пошта** and the **З** in **Закарпатська** (positions 9 and 10) |

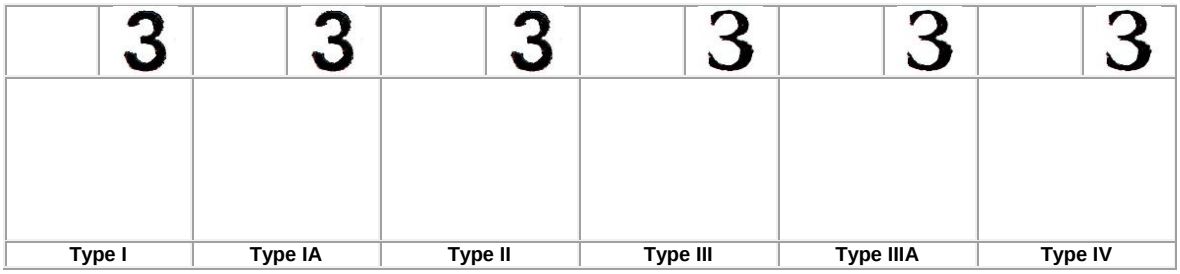


*Figure 10. Types and subtypes of Overprint A.*

Note: Some authors list our Type Ia as Type Ib, with their "Type Ia" being an overprint with breaks in the **П** and **ш** of **Пошта**). This variety occurs in both the first edition (position 3) and the second edition; see Figure 12. We choose to omit this and other minor varieties from the listings. (For more information on other overprint varieties, see references 22, 23, and 27.)

*Figure 11. Broken letters.*

Various sources have reported the angle of the 2nd and 3rd lines of the A-overprints as follows: 34 to 36 degrees (Blaha, Rauch, and Táborský), 36 degrees (Simády), and 38 degrees (von Steiden). Computer measurements of a representative sample of stamps

shows multiple examples of every angle from 34 to 38 degrees, with the majority falling at 36 degrees. The 23- and 27-degree angles mentioned by von Steiden (as being scarce) remain unconfirmed.

Three small-format accounting revenue stamps (plus two unissued large-format accounting revenue stamps) were overprinted in a horizontal format for the First Edition. They display the numeral on the right side, and are designated as Overprint B, Type I. One subtype, designated Type Ia, exists (**т** broken to resemble **г**, reading **Закарпагська**; see Figure 13). These overprinted revenue stamps were issued as ordinary postage stamps, and not as revenue stamps (or as official stamps as claimed in the *Michel* catalog).

*Figure 12. Broken* **т**.

In addition to these issued revenue stamps, several categories of Hungarian revenue stamps received Overprint A. These are considered to be unissued essays by most sources, although a few are known on cover. It seems likely that they were overprinted before the postage stamps, since Type Ia (broken **н** in **Україна**) has so far not been found on any revenue stamp.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061554/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7i.htm

Second Edition

Most references state that the Second Edition, consisting of overprints A and C, was released on 20 March 1945, but covers with Second Edition franking are known as early as 27 February. The second edition overprints were produced by a private concern, Földesi. However, some authors attribute the first edition to Földesi and the second edition to Lam (Figure 14).

Figure 14. Second Edition stamps.

These stamps were overprinted in vertical strips of five, and a sufficient quantity of type was available so that all of the initial capitals were sans-serif. [A lone exception exists: the 2.00/80f value of the 1941 Churches set (catalog number 9) has serifs on the З of Закарпатська, as in Type II of the first edition.]

As with the First Edition, sources differ about the angle of the 2nd and 3rd lines of the A-overprints: 30 to 36 degrees (Blaha, Rauch, and Táborský), 23 to 27 degrees (Simády), and 30 and 36 degrees (von Steiden). Computer measurements of a large number of stamps show virtually every angle between 24 and 40 degrees (25 and 33 degrees were not found). Clusters occurred at 28 to 30 degrees and at 37 to 38 degrees. Second Edition overprints at 34 to 38 degrees are often difficult to distinguish from their First Edition Type I counterparts. A knowledge of plating is required, which is beyond the scope of this article (see references 22, 23, and 27).

Only the three small-format revenue stamps received overprints - with numerals at the left - and they are designated as Overprint C; see Figure 8 above. (The "Broken т" variety does not exist in this edition.)

The Second Edition overprinted a far more extensive variety of Hungarian stamps as stocks for the overprinting were drawn from post offices throughout Carpatho-Ukraine. Fifty-eight basic postage stamps (making 72 major catalog numbers as some values were overprinted with a second or even third value), ten postage due stamps, and three revenue stamps were used in creating the Second Edition Uzhhorod Provisionals. The Second Edition overprints were also applied to a dozen previously overprinted local Khust stamps of 1944.

Figure 15. Cover from Kvasy to Uzhhorod carrying a 60f Uzhhorod Provisional Second Edition stamp. The 23.VII.45 date is pencilled inside the cancellation.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061559/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7j.htm

**Forgeries**

Although forgeries are known of the overprinted issues, none of them are particularly dangerous when comparisons can be made with known genuine material. In some instances the forgers exhibited their ignorance by printing forged Type II, III, or IV overprints on stamps that were not part of the genuine First Edition. Doubtful stamps should always be expertized.

Three different forgeries are known to the authors:

1. The common "Budapest" forgery, characterized by thinner letters, and taller, thinner numerals (Figure 16).
2. A forgery characterized by several deformed letters. Especially notable is the high center bar of the **ш** in **Пошта**. The numerals resemble the genuine in shape, but they are about 0.3 mm too tall. In one interesting variation, the forger added "**1944**" to the left of the numerals. At one time, some collectors thought that these were trial printings. So far, the authors have only seen these overprints in red on the 18f stamp (Figure 17).
3. A poorly executed forgery with many overinked and underinked letters. Known both without numerals and with "**00**" numerals. Here too, some collectors once thought that these were trial printings (Figure 18).

*Figure 16. "Budapest" forgery.*




*Figure 17. Forgeries with deformed letters; with and without "1944".*




*Figure 18. Forgeries without value or with "00" value.*

None of the forgeries were printed by typography (letterpress) as in the genuine.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910062000/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7k.htm

**The National Council Definitive Issues**

Like most overprinted issues, the Uzhhorod Provisionals were merely a temporary expedient. This fact was noted by the NRZU and preparations were soon made to produce subsequent issues using local resources.

Beginning in May 1945, three separate definitive series were issued for Carpatho-Ukraine. All stamps were printed by offset lithography at Litografia Lam in Uzhhorod, and are perforated 11½ (imperforates exist of all values). Shade variations (from light to dark) are common, sometimes occurring within the same sheet. Gum was applied by hand and varies in color, quality, and consistency. Traces of gum can sometimes be found on the face of stamps, indicating that the gum was applied after printing. Perforation varieties of many types are known to exist, and are especially abundant on the second definitive issue. Most stamps also have plate numbers and/or inscriptions in the sheet margin, thus increasing the number of collectible varieties.

All three definitive series reflected the communist-oriented nature of the National Council. Each stamp has a hammer and sickle incorporated into its design, and most stamps also display a socialist star.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910040858/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7l.htm

**First Definitive Issue**

The first locally produced stamp issue (Figure 19) consisted of three values: 60f (red), 100f (various shades of blue), and 200f (deep blue and red). The stamps were released on 1 May 1945 and covers from the first day of issue have survived (Figure 20).

*Figure 19. The First NRZU Definitive Issue.*

*Figure 20. First day of issue (1 May 1945) local Uzhhorod cover bears perforate and imperforate 60f stamps of the First NRZU Issue. Note boxed censor marking in lower left.*

The sheet layout of the 60f and 100f is similar to that employed for Czechoslovak commemorative issues of the 1930s, i.e. sheets of 50 consisting of 7 rows of 8 with tabs in the first and last positions of the bottom three rows. Plate number **1.** appears in the

lower left tab. On the 100f value only, the printer's imprint **ЛИТО ЛАМ 1945.** appears below (or sometimes in) the lower right tab.

The 60f value exists in two types, determined by the position of the **П** in **ПОШТА**. In Type I the **П** is directly above the **О**, while in Type II the **П** is shifted slightly to the right (see Figure 21). The schematic in Figure 22 shows the distribution of Types within the 60f sheet.

**Type I** **Type II**
*Figure 21.*

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | II | I | I | I | II | I | I |
| I | II | I | I | I | II | I | I |
| I | II | I | I | I | II | I | I |
| I | II | I | I | I | II | I | I |
| ★ | I | I | I | II | I | I | ★ |
| ★ | I | II | I | II | I | I | ★ |
| ★1. | I | II | I | II | I | I | ★ |

*Figure 22. Distribution of Types in the 60f sheet.*

There were two formats for the 200f. What is believed to have been the first printing was prepared as a sheet of 50 (5 rows of 10). The second printing was a sheet of 60 (5 rows of 11 + 1). A tab with a red star was placed between the 11th and 12th stamps of each row, thus forming a vertical gutter (Figure 23). In the sheets of 50, the lower left stamp has both the plate number **1** in the left margin and the printer's imprint **ЛИТО. ЛАМ 1945.** in the bottom margin. The sheets of 55 + 5 also have these markings by the lower left stamp, as well as the plate number **1A** in the bottom starred gutter tab, next to the last stamp in the sheet.

Some sources report that the second printing sheet layout contained 55 stamps: 5 rows consisting of 10 stamps, a gutter tab with a red star, and then an 11th stamp. This information is incorrect and is probably due to simple miscounting.

*Figure 23. Strip from a sheet of 60.*

Some sheets of the first edition have a variant printer's imprint **ЛИТО ЛАМ 1945**. Note the use of Greek-style "L"s and the absence of periods, as well as different forms of other letters and numbers, especially the "M" and the "4" (Figure 24).

Normal Variant

*Figure 24. Imprint Styles on 200f value.*

Essays for the 60f and 200f stamps are known. The 60f essay is in black on thin parchment paper. The numerals are in a different style, and the communist insignia (star, hammer & sickle) are missing from the background; see Figure 25. In the 200f essay the numerals again are different and this time are placed lower, next to the fist. The essay is in a single color – brown (sheet of 50; 5 rows of 10). The printer's imprint is in the upper left corner, but there is no plate number. The right side of the sheet displays an 11th vertical column of tabs with stars (see Figure 26).

*Figure 25. Essay on parchment paper with variant design.*

*Figure 26. Single-color essay, variety printed on security paper used for school report cards.*

An abbreviation of the designer's name "Т. МОШК." (for T. Moshkovich) appears beneath each stamp of this set.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061604/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7m.htm

**Second Definitive Issue**

The second definitive series was issued in June of 1945 and consists of six values: 10f (dull yellow, bright yellow), 20f (grayish blue, bluish gray, gray), 40f (yellow green, dark green), 60f (bright red, brownish red), 100f (blue and brownish red), and 200f (brown and red); see Figure 27. Shades exist of all values. The earliest usage so far known is 11 June 1945. Figure 28 shows a cover mailed on 26 June 1945.

*Figure 27. The Second NRZU Definitive Issue.*

*Figure 28. Manuscript cancellation dated 26.VI.945 on an official mail cover sent from Siltse to Irshava. Note: franking consists of a single 10f stamp from the Second NRZU Issue.*

All values were printed in sheets of 200, consisting of side-by-side panes of 100 (10 by 10) separated by a vertical gutter strip. Marginal markings are different on most values:

10f Plate number ***1.*** next to lower left stamp of left-hand pane
Plate number ***1.A.*** in gutter tab next to lower left stamp of right-hand pane
Printer's Imprint ***ЛИТО-ЛАМ 1945.*** below last two stamps of right-hand pane

20f No marginal markings

40f Plate number **1** next to lower left stamp of left-hand pane
Plate number **1A** in gutter tab next to lower left stamp of right-hand pane
Printer's Imprint **ЛИТО-ЛАМ 1945** below last two stamps of right-hand pane

60f Plate number **1** next to lower left stamp of left-hand pane
Plate number **1.A.** in gutter tab next to lower left stamp of right-hand pane
No printer's Imprint

100f Plate number ***1.*** next to lower left stamp of left-hand pane
Plate number ***1.A.*** in gutter tab next to lower left stamp of right-hand pane
Printer's Imprint ***ЛИТО „ЛАМ" 1945.*** below last two stamps of right-hand pane
Double vertical line in gutter; all marginal markings in blue

200f Same as 100f, but all marginal markings in brown

The variations in marginal markings present a possible printing sequence as follows:

20f, 60f, 40f and 10f, with the 100f and 200f printed last.

The 100f and 200f are also known with reversed colors (errors), i.e. 100f brown with brownish red numerals, and 200f blue with red numerals.

Perforation varieties are especially abundant in the Second Definitive Issue.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061609/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7n.htm

**Third Definitive Issue**

The third definitive series consists of the 10f (yellow) and 20f (shades of gray) values only (Figure 29). The stamps were issued in August of 1945. The designs are the same as the second definitive issue with the addition of tiny numerals "19" and "45" adjacent to the value panel. On the 10f value, portions of these numerals are occasionally obscured by overinking.

*Figure 29. The Third NRZU Definitive Issue.*

Both values were printed in sheets of 200, consisting of two panes of 100 (10 by 10) separated by a vertical gutter strip. The marginal markings resemble those of the second edition 100f and 200f stamps, but with smaller (italic) type and plate numbers changed to ***2*** and ***2А*** (no periods). The imprint ***ЛИТО ЛАМ УЖГОРОД*** appears under stamps 99 and 100 (lower right) of the right-hand pane on both values. The intended purpose of vertical lines in the gutter – to serve as a cutting guide – was clarified by the addition of "scissors" icons at the top and bottom.

*Figure 30. Undated official cover mailed from Veliky Bereznyi bearing two Third NRZU Issue 20f stamps.*

https://web.archive.org/web/20090911082404/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7o.htm

**Cancellations**

The NRZU manufactured and distributed rubber handstamp canceling devices to at least 90 post offices. These double-ring cancellations are about 35mm in diameter (worn impressions approach 40mm) and were generally struck in black or violet. The text "ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА УКРАЇНА / ПОШТА" (Transcarpathian Ukraine / Post) wraps around the inside of the circle while the post office name appears in the center (Figure 31).

*Figure 31. The NRZU provisional cancel.*

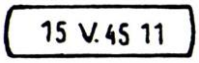


*Figure 32. Date bridge from bilingual Hungarian canceler*

In general, dates on Carpatho-Ukrainian cancellations were usually handwritten (or omitted), but some offices employed date handstamps, even including the date-bridge from an old canceling device (see Figure 32). The dimensions of this date stamp, 25 mm by 6.75 mm, are a close match to the bilingual cancelers used during the Hungarian occupation, but the order of the components has been changed from "Year. Month. Day. Hour." to "Day. Month. Year. Hour.".

Locally produced provisional cancels are known from a few offices: Berehove (boxed), Khust (a pre-war canceler with the Czech name removed), Rakoshin (boxed), and Shalanki (circular). Berehove also used a standard NRZU canceler. Handwritten cancellations were used in Seredne, Siltse (see Figure 28), Vilok, and Zalush. Seredne, Vilok, and Zalush also used NRZU cancelers, but only manuscript cancels are known from Siltse.

The cover in Figure 33 shows a handstamp from Rakoshin used in two different ways: to cancel the franking and to indicate registration. The Hungarian name "RÁKOS" has been removed from the upper part of the box, and this space is now used to enter the date (15 VI 1945) or the registry number (79). Addressed to Sándorfalva in Hungary, the item appears to be underfranked by 20f.

*Figure 33. Rakoshin provisional cancel.*

https://web.archive.org/web/20090911082409/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7p.htm

**nsorship**

Many Carpatho-Ukraine covers bear a two-line boxed censor mark in black, violet or lilac with the two-line inscription "Закарпатська Україна / пробачено цензурою"

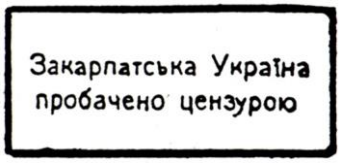


*Figure 34. Censor mark.*

(Carpatho Ukraine / examined by censor); see Figure 34. A handwritten censor number was normally inserted in the box. All censoring was done in Uzhhorod.

Most censored covers have been opened by the censor on the right side and then re-glued from the inside. This is not the case with the Figure 33 cover, which was probably delivered to the censor unsealed. This approach to opening covers for censorship is also seen in post-WWII covers from Poland and the Soviet Zone of Germany.

The covers shown in Figures 20 (see **First Definitive Issue**) and 31 (see **Cancellations**) above also display this marking, while the cover in Figure 15 (see **Second Edition**) has the censor mark on the reverse.

Figure 35 is an unoverprinted Hungarian postal card, "canceled" with the NRZU censor mark and endorsed by manuscript "Uzhhorod 1945 1/29". This is the earliest use of the censor mark known to the authors, and the card can also be considered a forerunner to the NRZU overprinted postal stationery issued in February of 1945 (see Chapter 14).

*Figure 35. Censorship mark used as cancellation.*

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910062006/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7q.htm

**Epilog**

Carpatho-Ukraine's brief period of postal autonomy came to an end on 15 November 1945 when the territory was incorporated into the Soviet Union as the Zakarpatska oblast of the Ukrainian S. S. R. Stamps of the Soviet Union were soon placed into use (early December usages are known; see Figure 36). In addition, covers with Carpatho-Ukraine stamps (especially the second and third definitive issues) are known well into January 1946 (Figure 37). Many of the NRZU provisional cancels (and stamps!) also continued to be used after the territory was incorporated into the Ukrainian S.S.R.

*Figure 36. Early use of Soviet stamp (9 December 1945).*

*Figure 37. Late use of Carpatho-Ukraine stamp (24 January 1946).*

NRZU cancelers were not only used for postal purposes, but for fiscal purposes as well. Figure 38 shows a cancellation on an insurance document.

*Figure 38. Confirmation of receipt for an insurance payment (still denominated in Pengő and fillér),*
*with a 15-kopek Soviet stamp, an Uzhhorod NRZU cancel, and a 24.XII.45 datestamp.*

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061614/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch7r.htm

**Conclusion**

The preceding paragraphs have attempted to convey a portion of the breadth and scope of collecting Carpatho-Ukraine. Although only the major issues have been described for 1939 and 1945, a large number of collectible varieties exist. Even by today's standards, this is an incredible number of stamps for such a small entity in such a short period of time.

In spite of these numbers, we have virtually ignored several closely related areas such as postal stationery (see chapter 14 for an inventory of Carpatho-Ukrainian stationery items); the 1944 local Czech "liberation" issues of Khust, Berehove, and Mukachiv; and the enigmatic local issue of Teresva. Finally, the fields of cancellations and postal history offer considerable depth and opportunities for new discoveries.

Many collectors choose to assemble the entire philatelic history of Carpatho-Ukraine, from the pre-stamp era through the Soviet period and presumably including today's independent Ukraine. While there are obvious financial barriers to acquiring many of the scarcer items from the 1945 period, the greatest difficulty is in finding the material at all. If you are a collector who likes a challenge, this could be just what you are looking for.

## Jay Carrigan

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910032520/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch14a.htm

## Introduction

Early in February of 1939, exciting announcements began to appear in the Czechoslovak daily press and in some philatelic publications about the issuance of a stamp to commemorate the opening of the First Carpatho-Ukrainian National Assembly in Khust the following month. This lead-time allowed for ample opportunity to produce suitable commemorative stationery upon which to affix this special regional stamp.

Originally, the National Assembly was to take place on Thursday, 2 March 1939 and this is the date shown on the stamp design. But the stamp did not appear on 2 March and the National Assembly was repeatedly rescheduled, first to the 9th, then the 14th, and there was even talk of the 21st. The reason for the postponements was that the Czechoslovak authorities feared – with some justification - that the Carpatho-Ukrainians would try to secede from the Czechoslovak Federation.

It was on the 14th, however, that Slovakia first broke away from Czechoslovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine found itself literally cut off from the rest of the country. That evening Carpatho-Ukraine first announced its independence by radio and plans were quickly made to hold a National Assembly the following day. On Wednesday the 15th, the Carpatho-Ukrainian stamps were put on sale late in the morning. No longer regional stamps, they now became the country's first stamp issue. Later in the day, the deputies of the Assembly formally proclaimed independence and adopted a constitution.

These acts were, in essence, symbolic gestures. Even as the decrees were being passed, the Hungarian army was marching on Khust. Within a few days, all of Carpatho-Ukraine was occupied and the members of the government had fled abroad. Carpatho-Ukraine would remain part of Hungary until the fall of 1944.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061929/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch14b.htm

### National Assembly Issue First Day Commemoratives

Several different commemorative stationery formats were available for use on 15 March when the 3-koruny stamp was first put into circulation. They had been prepared for the

originally scheduled opening of the National Assembly on the 2nd of March and had been set aside for the day when the Assembly finally would meet. So, when Carpatho-Ukraine issued its first stamp, there were plenty of suitable first day materials available at hand.

All of these commemorative products were privately produced and would normally not be included in an itemization of postal stationery. However, these items are important and popular collectibles among Carpatho-Ukraine specialists and they represent the only instance of first day stationery being produced in Ukraine during the Classic Period. It is for these reasons that the materials are described below and listed in Table 1.

**Cards.** The smallest commemorative article prepared was a three-color card (approximately 12.5 by 8 cm) whose upper and lower borders both display a blue and yellow stripe, each 4 mm wide (Figure 1). The upper left corner of the central white portion of the card shows a sword-in-trident design over the Ukrainian words **СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!** (Glory to Ukraine!).

The second item of commemorative stationery available in Khust at the time of independence was a large (approximately 212 by 294 mm) five-color, commemorative mounting page (Figure 7). Centered at the top of this page is the Carpatho-Ukrainian coat of arms; below it is a large blowup of the 3- koruny stamp that differs from the true stamp design in a number of details. Just below the stamp is a black obliterating bar that covers a one-line Ukrainian inscription that originally read: **ВІТВОРЕННЯ СОЙМУ КАРПАТСЬКОЇ УКРАЇНИ** (Opening of the Assembly of Carpatho-Ukraine). Apparently, it was felt that the word for 'opening' was grammatically inappropriate and so a new three-line, black inscription was appended: **ВІТКРЕТТЯ / ПЕРШОГО СОЙМУ КАРПАТСЬКОЇ УКРАЇНИ / ХУСТ - 1939"** (Opening of the First Assembly of Carpatho-Ukraine, Khust 1939). A large amount of blank space below the text left plenty of room for a stamp and cancellation.

Another mounting card shows an illustration in the upper center that matches the stamp vignette. Printed in a dark blue similar to the stamp, the attractive card measures 105 by 145 mm. Underneath is the three-line inscription **ЗАСІДАННЯ ПЕРШОГО СОЙМУ / «КАРПАТСЬКОЇ УКРАЇНИ» / ХУСТ – 1939.** (Session of the First Assembly of Carpatho-Ukraine, Khust-1939).

The above-described commemorative cards should not be confused with a bogus souvenir sheet that also reproduces the Carpatho-Ukrainian stamp (in approximately true size) over the two-line Ukrainian inscription: **ОТВОРЕННЯ 1. СОЙМУ КАРПАТСЬКОЇ УКРАЇНИ / 2.III.1939** (Opening of the 1st Assembly of Carpatho-Ukraine, 2 March 1939), Figure 8. A full color reproduction of the Carpatho-Ukrainian coat of arms appears below the text.

These souvenir sheets were prepared six at a time on a printing sheet measuring 295 by 228 mm. The sheet was then cut randomly yielding souvenir sheets of varying sizes. The following dimensions have been recorded: 80 x 97 mm, 80 x 114 mm, 83 x 110 mm, and 106 x 114 mm. Many additional sizes undoubtedly exist.

Only about 200 copies of this souvenir sheet were sold before the perpetrator - a printer from Olomouc, Moravia by the name of M. Komínek - was caught and all his remaining copies (some 800) were destroyed. The entire rip-off scheme was rather slipshod and it is surprising that so many of these sheets were sold. The grammar in the text is wrong, some of the letters were not well formed, the coat of arms was poorly drawn, and the reverse was crudely gummed.

**Envelopes and Post Card.** The remaining five products more closely resemble typical first day stationery. The first is an envelope (about 186 by 123 mm) evidently made by the same printer who created the mounting sheet. The same enlarged and modified Carpatho-Ukraine stamp appears on the left of the envelope. Beneath is an obliteration bar and the same three-line text as on the sheet (Figure 9). This is the most common type of first day envelope found.

Another printer evidently prepared the next several items because they all closely resemble each other. They are the most tastefully produced and carry the same blue vignette in their upper left corners as appears on the stamp. The articles consist of a gray-white card (150 by 100 mm) and a creamy white envelope (177 by 114 mm), see Figure 10.

A variant of the above envelope exists where the first two lines of Ukrainian text are identical, but the third line reads **ХУСТ – 1939 – CHUST** (Ukrainian and Czech) and the two additional lines in Czech read: **ZASEDÁNÍ PRVÉHO SNĚMU / KARPATSKÉ UKRAJINY** (the same meaning as the Ukrainian inscription). The Czech letters are formed with a non-serif type (Figure 11). Because the vignettes on these envelopes and card are identical to the second of the two mounting cards described above, all four items were most likely produced by the same person.

Finally, a simple non-decorated (sans illustration) envelope is known. It displays an outer border and four lines of text in the upper left: **ПЕРШЕ ЗАСІДАННЯ СОЙМУ / КАРПАТСЬКОЇ УКРАЇНИ / ХУСТ / 2. III. 1939**" (First Session of the Carpatho-Ukrainian Assembly, Khust, 2 March 1939). [Dimensions and color of this item are unknown.] This envelope is the scarcest of the four produced for the Opening of the National Assembly.

**Table 1: KHUST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ISSUE FIRST DAY COMMEMORATIVES**

| Number | Item | Description of Stationery | Value* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | card | Commemorative card with sword-in-trident | $30 |
| 2 | card | Mounting card with large 3-koruny stamp image, obliterating bar, and three-line Ukrainian text | $40 |
| 3 | card | Mounting card with vignette of 3-koruny and three-line Ukrainian text | $50 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | post card | Post card with vignette of 3-koruny stamp and three-line Ukrainian text | $125 |
| 5 | envelope | Envelope with large 3-koruny stamp cachet, obliterating bar, and three-line Ukrainian text | $75 |
| 6 | envelope | Envelope with vignette of 3-koruny stamp and three-line Ukrainian text | $150 |
| 7 | envelope | Envelope with vignette of 3-koruny stamp and five-line Ukrainian-Czech text | $175 |
| 8 | envelope | Bordered envelope with four-line Ukrainian text | $200 |
| * - Prices are for items bearing the 3- koruny National Assembly stamp and cancelled with a legitimate 15 March 1939 cancellation. | | | |

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061934/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch14c.htm

**Available Cancellations in March of 1939**

Officially postmarked versions of this commemorative card - and all subsequently described stationery items - carry the 3-krone blue stamp with a red, double-ring cancellation (31.5mm diameter) and the superscript "***XYCT-CHUST***". The date bridge reads: 15.III.39-15 (i.e. 15 March 1939, 3pm). The subscript has the Ukrainian text **ВІДКРИТТЯ ПЕРШОГО СОЙМУ** (Opening of the First Assembly), Figure 2. *Cancel forgeries are 32mm in diameter and display differences in some letters (the* **Х** *in* ХУСТ *or the* **Й** *in* **СОЙМУ***), in serifs on numbers, and in the size of the asterisks (Figure 3).*

Apart from this official cancel, the usual bilingual (Czech-Ukrainian) double-ring date cancellers (32mm) for this post office continued in use (Figure 4). Reading **CHUST** across the top, and **ХУСТ** along the bottom, they had a subscript letter below the bridge. These markings were applied in black on normal commercial mail, while the commemorative cancel was available at a special counter that served collectors, or upon request as a favor cancel. For this reason, genuine registered letters franked with the commemorative stamp and cancelled with the normal bilingual type in black are much rarer than those carrying the red special cancellation. Conversely, normal Czechoslovakian stamps treated with the red cancel are also very desirable. *An easy-to-recognize fantasy is known of this cancellation. Its date is "*15.III.39-16*" and it has an "f" subscript that is not known on contemporary cancels from Khust (Figure 5). This marking was apparently a backdated favor cancel.*

Red cancels similar to the commemorative cancel described above, but with a date bridge of 2.III.39-10 (i.e. 2 March 1939, 10am) and with a subscript letters "a" or "b", were prepared for the originally scheduled session but never used at that time. These two cancels were applied by favor in the confusing days following the 15th and were not officially sanctioned by Ukrainian postal authorities.

Collectors should beware of any Carpatho-Ukraine materials of this time carrying these cancels or another of the same size and red color with a much smaller date bridge (but the same 2.III.39-10 date) and a prominent Carpatho-Ukrainian coat of arms. An even larger cancellation (37 mm in diameter) in blue and yellow is sometimes found. It is left over from 21 January 1939 commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Central Ukrainian National Council. It too, obviously, was not officially approved. Figure 6 displays all the unofficial cancellations.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910035220/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch14d.htm

**NRZU-Overprinted Stationery**

In the wake of the Red Army's occupation of Carpatho-Ukraine in October of 1944, a communist-dominated People's Council of Carpatho-Ukraine (NRZU) began to take over the running of the region, including postal affairs. In addition to the supplying of postage stamps, the NRZU also machine overprinted remaining supplies of Hungarian postal cards in three locations: Uzhhorod, Mukachiv, and Berehove.

The overprinting apparently took place at all three locales about the same time as the Uzhhorod stamp overprints (see Chapter 7); a date of 10 February is commonly cited. In some instances, postal cards previously hand-overprinted **ČSP / ·1944·** in Khust - by a short-lived Czechoslovak administration - were included in the stocks for machine overprinting. Although some 16,000 of these 18f Khust cards (and an unknown number of 12f cards) had been prepared in about mid-November 1944, few, if any, apparently had ever been put into circulation by the time the Czechs pulled out in mid-January 1945.[1]

*Figure 12. NRZU-overprinted stationery types.*

1. - A total of 244 letter-cards also received the **ČSP / •1944•** overprint in Khust. In addition, on behalf of the Czechoslovak administration, several postal cards and other postal forms were overprinted in Mukachiv with a **ČSR** handstamp. Like the Khust postal stationery materials, few of these items were ever put to use.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061519/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch14e.htm

**Overprinted Hungarian Postal Stationery**

The NRZU-overprinted cards were produced from the following eight Hungarian postal stationery items:

12-fillér brown red, single postal card, inscribed **LEVELEZŐLAP**.
12-fillér brown red, double card (message half), inscribed **LEVELEZŐLAP VALASZLAPPAL /**
**CARTE POSTALE AVEC RÉPONSE PAYÉE**.
12-fillér brown red, double card (reply half), inscribed **LEVELEZŐLAP / (VALASZ) /**
**CARTE POSTALE / (RÉPONSE)**.
18-fillér dark green, single postal card, inscribed **LEVELEZŐLAP**.
18-fillér dark green, double card (message half), inscribed **LEVELEZŐLAP VALASZLAPPAL /**
**CARTE POSTALE AVEC RÉPONSE PAYÉE**.
18-fillér dark green, double card (reply half), inscribed **LEVELEZŐLAP / (VALASZ) /**
**CARTE POSTALE / (RÉPONSE)**.
No value, rose field post card (homeland to field), inscribed **TÁBORI POSTAI LEVELEZŐLAP**.
No value, gray green field post card (field to homeland), inscribed **TÁBORI POSTAI LEVELEZŐLAP**.

All of these cards bear a printer's imprint reading from bottom to top in the center of the card. The imprint ends with a printing date, which is normally 1941 for the 12-fillér double cards, 1943 for 18-fillér double cards, and 1944 for 12-fillér and 18-fillér single cards and the field post cards.

The printing dates are often covered by the overprint, but can usually be distinguished upon close examination. Some 18-fillér single postal cards have been found with 1943 printing dates (instead of 1944). Further research is required to identify all of the printing dates found on the overprinted cards, since this aspect seems to not have been considered by previous authors.

Quantities of the postal cards and double cards earlier received a local hand overprint of Khust (**ČSP / •1944•**). The double cards were then separated into single message cards and reply cards. All these overprinted cards found little or no use and subsequently received the various NRZU machine overprints along with unoverprinted cards.

The rose field post card (but not the gray green card!) likewise received a handstamped overprint in Khust. This was in the form of a rectangle (35 x 23 mm) containing three lines: **Československá pošta / — 18 f. — / Чехословацька пошта**.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061939/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch14f.htm

**A Note on Valuations**

The values given in the tables for NRZU-Overprinted Stationery represent the authors' opinions of current average market values. Market prices may fluctuate both above and below these values, depending on a number of factors. Many of these items are so rarely traded that the values are at best guesses, and these are so indicated in the tables by the use of italics.

Cancelled-to-order stationery should be valued as mint + 10%.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061944/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch14g.htm

## Criteria for Listing

Ideally, we would like to be able to state that the existence of every card in the listings has been personally verified. Unfortunately, this has not proven to be possible. In some cases it was necessary to apply a degree of editorial judgement. Several unverified cards have been listed because they appear in other sources or, based on deductive reasoning, because it makes sense that a particular card should exist. Likewise, other cards listed by other authors were omitted here, because the authors feel that it is highly unlikely that those cards do in fact exist.

Obviously, the field of Carpatho-Ukrainian stationery awaits new discoveries. The authors would appreciate hearing about such discoveries, including verification of those cards footnoted in the listings as "not verified." Additionally, any compelling evidence that cards listed on the basis of editorial judgement do not in fact exist would also be welcome.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061523/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch14h.htm

## Uzhhorod Stationery

Uzhhorod, the interwar capital of Carpatho-Ukraine, overprinted the Hungarian 1944-issue 18f postal cards with a 40f Overprint A, using the Type IV cliché also used on the First Uzhhorod Issue stamps (reading upward at a 38-degree angle; Figure 12-1). Initially the text portion of the card was not overprinted, but later all the Hungarian text was obliterated with black bars (Figure 13). The same transformation was applied to 5,000 cards from Khust.

*Figure 12-1. Uzhhorod overprint.*

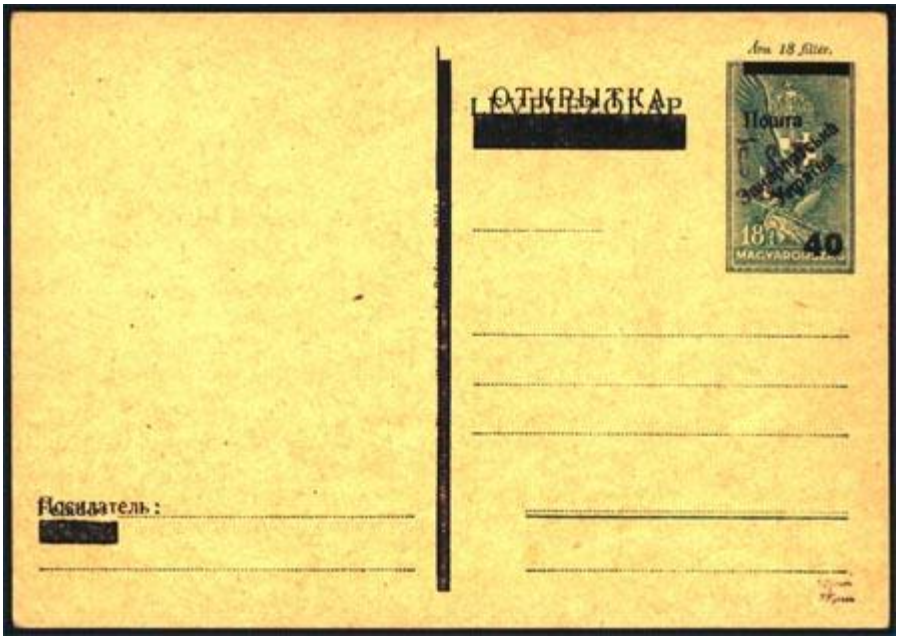


*Figure 13. Overprinted Uzhhorod postal card with black obliterations and prior Khust overprint* **ČSP / —1944—**.

| **Table 2: UZHHOROD STATIONERY** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| **Number** | **Overprint** | **Item** | **Description of Stationery** | **Value** |

| | | | | Mint | Used |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| 1 | black | PC | **Пошта / Закарпатська / Україна / 40** on 1944 18f without obliterations | *$500* | *$1,000* |
| 2 | black | PC | **Пошта / Закарпатська / Україна / 40** on 1944 18f with obliterations | $100 | $350 |
| 3 (2)[2] | black | PC | **Пошта / Закарпатська / Україна / 40** over **ČSP / —1944—** on 1944 18f | $75 | $250 |

2. - Numbers in parentheses refer back to corresponding cards that are identical, but which do not carry overprints applied in Khust.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090910061529/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch14i.htm

**Mukachiv Stationery**

The seat of the NRZU in Mukachiv easily produced the greatest number of postal stationery items. A diagonal, two-line, Ukrainian inscription was adopted for two separate printings. Reading upwards at a 58-degree angle, the overprint was made up solely of capital letters using a serif type. The first printing, using black ink, revalued both 12f and 18f postal cards to **—.40** [fillér]. Some 2,000 additional 18f postal cards from Khust also received this overprint.

The second printing, with red ink, again revalued both 12f and 18f 1944-issue postal cards, but this time to **1.—** [Pengő], see Figure 14. Both unoverprinted and Khust-overprinted 12f postal cards were transformed as were both message and reply halves of separated 1941-issue 12f double cards (presently not known without the Khust overprint).

*Figure 14. Overprinted Mukachiv postal card with red obliterations.*

Similarly, the red overprint was also applied to 18f postal cards and to 1943-issue 18f double cards (both halves), see Figure 15. All these items may or may not have the Khust **ČSP / •1944•** marking. (One thousand previously overprinted cards were reported to have been produced.)

*Figure 15. Message half of a double card with red Mukachiv overprint (damaged* **Отправитель** at lower left).

Red overprints exist in a variety of shades, from light to dark. This is especially noticeable on postal cards numbered 11 and 14 below. Overprint-shifted and overprint-

doubled varieties have been recorded (Figure 16). Variations in the dimensions of some of the obliteration bars also exist.

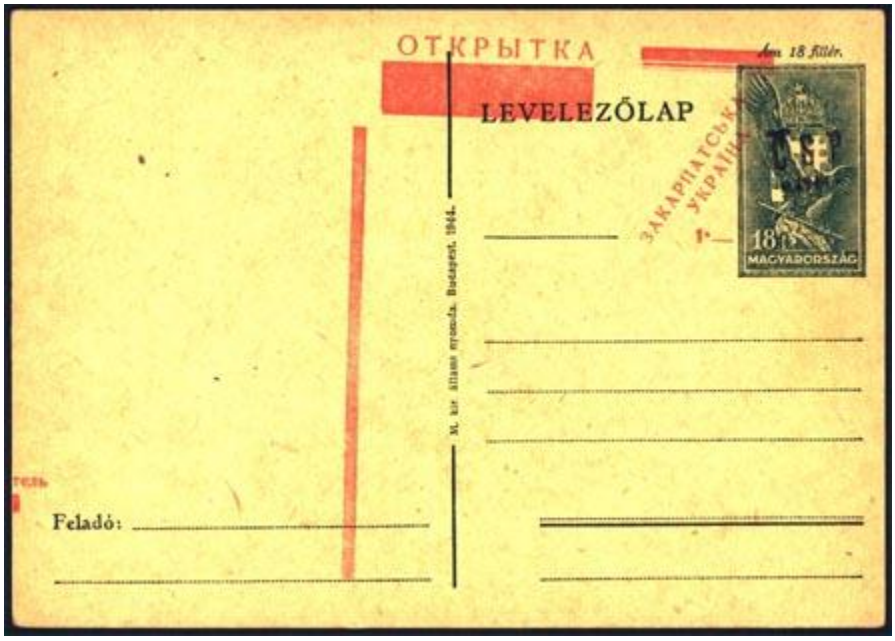


*Figure 16. Shifted Mukachiv overprint on card with prior* **ČSP** / •1944• *overprint.*

*Figure 17. Damaged* **Отправитель** *overprint variety appears on all 18-fillér message cards seen to date.*
*This variety does not occur on the (so far) only known 12-filler message card.*

| Table 3: MUKACHIV STATIONERY | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Number** | **Overprint** | **Item** | **Description of Stationery** | **Value** | |
| | | | | **Mint** | **Used** |
| **Black Overprint (—.40)** | | | | | |
| 4 | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / —.40** on 1944 12f | $200 | $500 |
| 5 | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / —.40** on 1944 18f | $100 | $250 |
| 6 (5) | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / —.40** over **ČSP** / •1944• on 1944 18f | $100 | $300 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Red Overprint (1. —) on 12-filler Cards** | | | | | |
| 7 | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** on 1944 12f; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center | $150 | *$400* |
| 8 (7) | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** over **ČSP / •1944•** on 1944 12f; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center | $150 | *$400* |
| 9 | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** over **ČSP / •1944•** on 1941 12f message half; 90 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center (composed of two sections: 54 and 36 mm) | $250 | *$500* |
| 10[3] | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** over **ČSP / •1944•** on 1941 12f reply half | *$250* | *$500* |
| **Red Overprint (1. —) on 18-filler Cards** | | | | | |
| 11a | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** on 1944 18f; 36 by 4.5 mm obliterating bar upper center | $150 | $350 |
| 11aY | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** on **1943** 18f; 36 by 4.5 mm obliterating bar upper center | *$300* | *$500* |
| 11b | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** on 1944 18f; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center | $75 | $200 |
| 12 | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** on 1943 18f message half; 90 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center (composed of two sections: 54 and 36 mm); damaged **Отправитель**[4] | $125 | $350 |
| 13 | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —** on 1943 18f reply half; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center | $125 | $350 |
| It is possible that card No. 13 also exists with three obliterating bars (as in card No. 16). | | | | | |
| **Red Overprint (1. —) on 18-filler Cards, with ČSP / •1944•** | | | | | |
| 14a (11a)[5] | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —**over **ČSP / •1944•** on 1944 18f; 36 by 4.5 mm obliterating bar upper center | *$150* | *$400* |
| 14b (11b) | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —**over **ČSP / •1944•** on 1944 18f; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center | $75 | $200 |
| 14bd | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —**over **ČSP / •1944•** on 1944 18f; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center; Khust overprint doubled | $250 | *$750* |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14bs | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —**over **ČSP / •1944•** on 1944 18f; 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar upper center; shifted overprint | $125 | *$350* |
| 15 (12)[6] | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —**over **ČSP / •1944•** on 1943 18f message half | *$200* | *$500* |
| 16 | red | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАЇНА / 1. —**" over **ČSP / •1944•** on 1943 18f reply half; three bars stacked (36 by 9 mm, 36 by 3.5 mm, and 36 by 2 mm) upper center | *$200* | *$500* |
| It is possible that card No. 16 also exists with a single 36 by 9 mm obliterating bar (as in card No. 13). | | | | | |

3. - The existence of this card type has not been confirmed, but since the message half is known, the reply half is assumed to have also been produced. These same overprinted cards, but without the prior Khust **ČSP / ·1944·** overprint, are listed by some authorities but probably do not exist.
4. - Only cards with damaged **Отправитель** have been seen by the authors. Varieties with an undamaged word may exist.The existence of this card type has not been confirmed by the authors.
5. - The existence of this card type has not been confirmed by the authors.
6. - The existence of this card has not been confirmed by the authors, but since the reply half is known, the message half is assumed to have been produced.

https://web.archive.org/web/20090911082344/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch14j.htm

**Berehove Stationery**

The smallest of the three towns where overprinting occurred was Berehove. Here the 1944-issue 18f postal cards were also revalued "—.40"[fillér], but the two-line text, rather surprisingly, spelled Carpatho-Ukraine in Russian. The text, all in capital letters, reads upward almost vertically at an 82-degree angle. The overprint is known with two sizes of the obliterating bar in the upper right corner: 18mm (Figure 18) and 22mm. All of the overprinting – inscription and obliteration – is in black. Some 5,000 previously overprinted Khust cards were also prepared with a Berehove overprint.

*Figure 18. Berehove postal card with short (18 mm) obliterating bar.*

| **Table 4: BEREHOVE STATIONERY** | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Number** | **Overprint** | **Item** | **Description of Stationery** | **Value** | |
| | | | | **Mint** | **Used** |
| 17a | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАИНА / —.40** on 1944 18f; with 18mm obliterating bar in UR | $75 | $150 |
| 17b | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАИНА / —.40** on 1944 18f; with 22mm obliterating bar in UR | $125 | $200 |
| 18a (17a) | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАИНА / —.40** over **ČSP / •1944•** on 1944 18f; with 18mm obliterating bar in UR | $100 | $250 |
| 18aY | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАИНА / —.40** over **ČSP / •1944•** on **1943** 18f; with 18mm obliterating bar in UR | *$350* | *$600* |
| 18b (17b)[7] | black | PC | **ЗАКАРПАТСЬКА / УКРАИНА / —.40** over **ČSP / •1944•** on 1944 18f; with 22mm obliterating bar in UR | *$250* | *$400* |

https://web.archive.org/web/20090911082349/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch14k.htm

**Field Post Stationery**

A **—.40**[fillér] surcharge was applied to available non-denominated (postage free) 1944-issue Hungarian field post cards. Here, however, the production site is less certain, as both Uzhhorod and Mukachiv have been mentioned in the literature. Nevertheless, a slight majority of Carpatho-Ukraine experts tend to favor the latter location as the likely source.

A total of 2,000 rose-colored field post cards were overprinted. The black obliterating bar at the upper left can be either 45mm or 63mm. An unknown quantity of both these types, but with prior Khust surcharges, are also known to exist [a lengthwise rectangle with bilingual Czech (upper) and Ukrainian (lower) text, and an 18f in the middle], see Figure 19. Some sources claim that the Khust overprint exists in both handstamp and machine (typographed) versions. We cannot, however, verify the existence of the machine overprint.

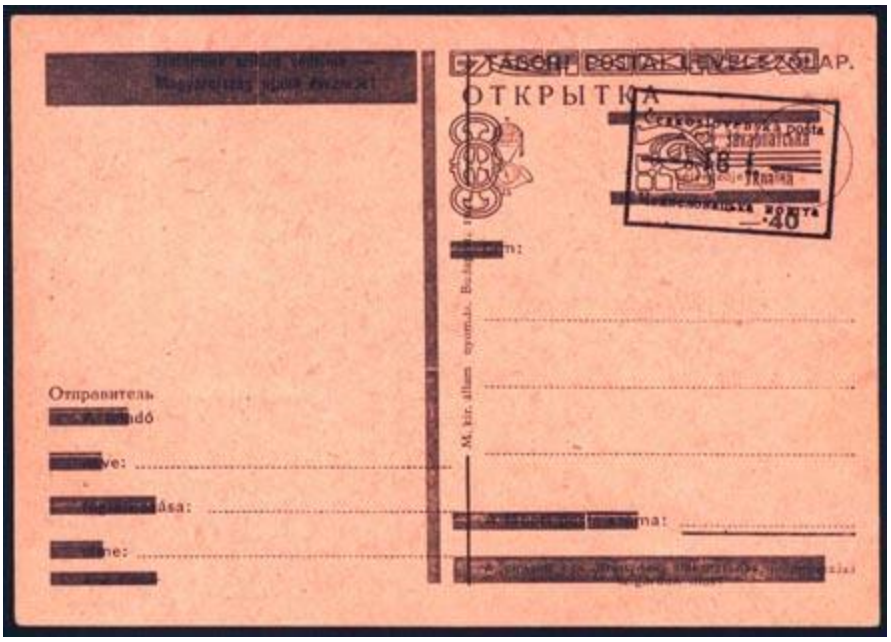


*Figure 19a. Overprinted rose field post card (previously surcharged) with long (63 mm) black obliterating bar in upper left.*

*Figure 19b. Close-up of boxed Khust surcharge.*

A total of 5,000 gray-green field post cards were also overprinted, but only with a 63mm black bar (Figure 20). Contrary to some claims, they do not exist with prior Khust markings (however, a single example has been found with a prior Mukachiv **ČSR** overprint).

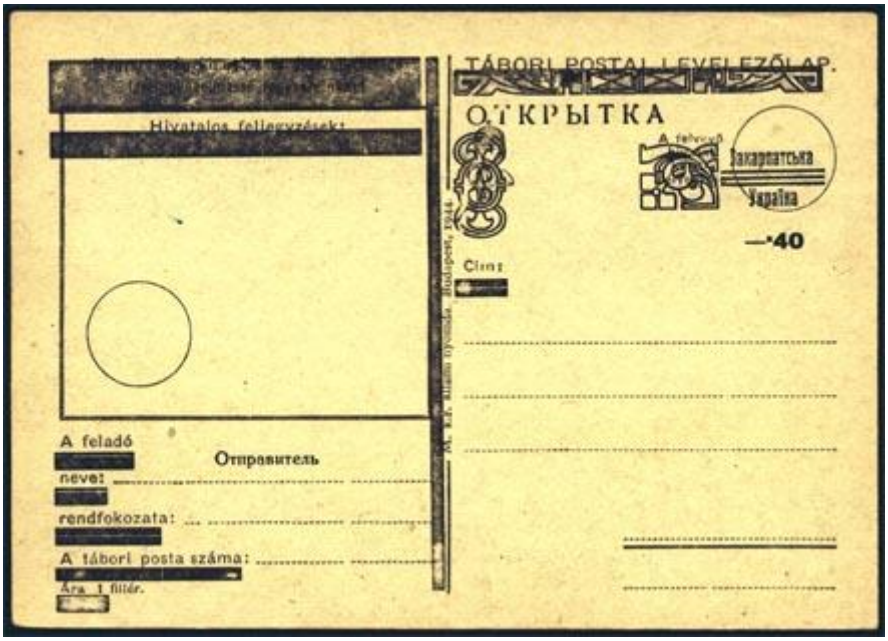


*Figure 20. Overprinted gray-green filed post card.*

A few printing varieties are known (see Figures 21 and 22). These cards are also known with skewed and doubled overprints (Figure 23).

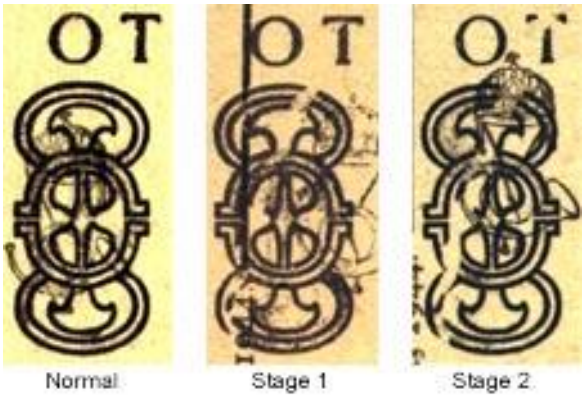


*Figure 21. Ornament flaws.*

*Figure 22. Missing decimal point variety.*

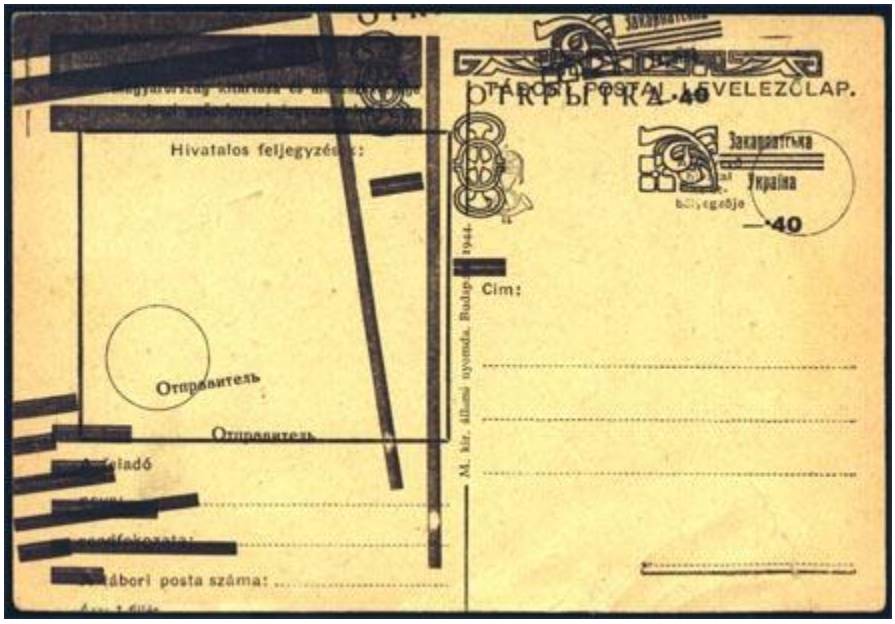


*Figure 23. Double overprint, one skewed.*

| Table 5: FIELD POST STATIONERY | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Number** | **Overprint** | **Item** | **Description of Stationery** | **Value** | |
| | | | | **Mint** | **Used** |
| 19a | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on rose-colored card; 45mm obliterating bar in UL | $40 | $125 |
| 19b | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on rose-colored card; 63mm obliterating bar in UL | $75 | $150 |
| 20a (19a) | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** over **Československa posta / — 18f. — / Чехословатська пошта** on rose-colored card; 45mm obliterating bar in UL | $100 | $200 |
| 20b (19b) | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** over **Československa posta / — 18f. — / Чехословатська пошта** on rose-colored card; 63mm obliterating bar in UL | $150 | $250 |
| 21 | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card | $40 | $75 |
| *The following overprint varieties have been noted on the gray-green card only.* | | | | | |
| 21v1 | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card; with damaged ornament (Stage 1) | +10% | +10% |
| 21v2 | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card; with damaged ornament and damaged **T** (Stage 2) | +10% | +10% |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21v3 | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / — 40** on gray-green card; with missing decimal point in **— 40** (with Stage 1 ornament flaw) | +20% | +20% |
| 21sv1 | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card; shifted overprint; with damaged ornament (Stage 1) | $75 | |
| 21d | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card; double overprint | $200 | |
| 21ds | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card; double overprint, one skewed | $200 | |
| 22 (21) | black | FPC | **Закарпатська / Україна / —.40** on gray-green card with prior Mukachiv **ČSR** handstamp | | *$400* |

https://web.archive.org/web/20090911082354/http://www.jaypex.com/C-U/ch14z.htm

## Bibliography


1. Blaha, Miroslav. "Development of the Postal Service in the Transcarpathian Province of the Soviet Union." *Rossica* No. 73 (1967): 37-43.
2. Blaha, Miroslav. *Zakarpatsko.* Prague: Svaz Českých Filatelistů, 1989. (In Czech)
3. Bodnar, John. "The Second Standard Issue of Carpatho-Ukraine." *The Southern Collector* No. 4 (1996): 16-22
4. Bulat, John. "Postage Stamps, Postcards, and Cancellation Stamps of the 1944 Czecho-Slovak Republic." *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 40 (1977): 2-5.
5. Bylen, Peter. *Carpatho-Ukraine, A Catalog-Checklist.* Westchester, IL: Ukrainian Philatelic Resources, 1995.
6. Bylen, Peter. "A Synopticon of Carpatho-Ukraine Postage Stamps." *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 73/74 (1995): 227-236.
7. Carrigan, Jay T. "An Introduction to Carpatho-Ukraine's 1945 People's Council Issues". *Introductory Handbook of Ukrainian Philately (Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 63/64 (1993): 27-31).
8. Ceremuga, Krzysztof. "More on the Second Standard Issue of Carpatho-Ukraine." *The Southern Collector* No. 6 (1996): 10-13.

9. Ceremuga, Krzysztof. "Third Standard Issue of Carpatho-Ukraine." *The Southern Collector* No. 6 (1996): 14.

10. Hugel, Lubomyr. "Stamps of Carpatho-Ukraine of 1945." *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 36 (1974): 3-8.

11. Indra, Viktor. "The 1939 Stamp of Carpatho-Ukraine." *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 65/66 (1993): 53-58. Adapted from *Rossica* No. 69 (1965): 10-15.

12. Kuzych, Ingert. "Ukrainian Wooden Churches in Philately." *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 55 (1989): 19-23; No. 56 (1989): 20-25. (Contains background information on the 3-koruny stamp and its subject.)

13. Kuzych, Ingert. "Ukrainian Wooden Churches in Philately: An Update." *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 65/66 (1993): 41-52. (Further background information on the 3-koruny stamp.)

14. Kuzych, Ingert. "Carpatho-Ukraine's Private Yasinia Stamp Issues of 1939." *The Southern Collector* No. 12 (1998): 2-3.

15. Page, Juan E. "Carpatho Ukraine Postal Markings of the Years 1938-45." *Monograph No. 4.* The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain, 1985.

16. Petretsky, Vasyl. "Pochtovye Marki Zakarpatskoi Ukrainy" (The Postage Stamps of Carpatho-Ukraine). *Sovetskii Kollektsioner* No. 21 (1983): 23-41. (In Russian)

17. Santaeugenia Grau, Juan. *Sellos y Sobrecargas Revolucionarias Checoslovaquia* (6th edition). Barcelona, 1998. (In Spanish)

18. Shneidman, J. Lee. "Questions on the Postal History of Karpato-Ukraine." *The American Philatelist* (September 1983): 828-830. (Answered by Simady below.)

19. Shulewsky, Michael. *Carpatho-Ukraine: Description and Pricelist of the Uzhhorod Provisional Overprints on Hungarian Postage Stamps.* Kensington, CT: Tryzub Stamp Co., 1994.

20. Shulewsky, Michael. "Carpatho-Ukraine: The Private Yasiniya (Jasina) Local Issues of 1939." *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 71/72 (1995): 77-79.

21. Simády, Béla. "Answers to ‘Questions on the Postal History of Karpato-Ukraine’." *The American Philatelist* (November 1984): 1098-1099,1145. (Answers the questions posed by Shneidman above.)

22. Simády, Béla. "Overprinted Issues of Carpatho-Ukraine." *The American Philatelist* (December 1989): 1156-1164.

23. Simády, Béla. *Kárpátalja Postatörténete.* Budapest: Magyar Bélyeggyüjtók Országos Szövetsége, 1991. (In Hungarian)

24. *Specializovaný Katalog Československých Poštovních Známek*. Prague, 1978. (In Czech)

25. Táborský, František. *Zakarpatská Ukrajina*. Brno, 1968. (In Czech)

26. von Steiden, Georg. "Briefmarken der Karpaten-Ukraine mit Zwei Überdrucken" (Postage Stamps of Carpatho-Ukraine With Two Overprints). *Visti SUFA, UBSV-Vereinsjournal* No. 37 (1998-99): 22-26. (In German and Ukrainian)

27. von Steiden, Georg. *Spezialkatalog Karpaten-Ukraine.* Munich: Privately issued, 2000. (In German and Ukrainian)